Application No.: 10/667,513

Docket No.: 4459-131

REMARKS

Counsel thanks Examiner Nguyen for the courtesy of telephone calls made September 29 and October 3, 2005 regarding further claim amendments that would immediately place the instant application in condition suitable for allowance.

Solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution, the claims have been amended in the manner kindly suggested by Examiner Nguyen. In particular, independent claim 1 has been amended to include claims 7-9 in the alternative. Similarly, independent claim 10 has been amended to include claims 11-13 in the alternative. Claims 7-9 and 11-13 have been cancelled.

A Terminal Disclaimer is concurrently filed herewith to obviate a potential double patenting rejection of the pending claims over the claims of copending application Serial No. 10/745,576.

In view of the above, early indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: October 3, 2005

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